

SECRETMAB 070
1 June 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--May 1981

I. GENERAL

Ambassador Nancy Rawls returned to the Ivory Coast on 8 May after a prolonged visit to Washington for medical treatment. During the week following her return, she called on all components of the mission, including FBIS, to familiarize herself with any changes that may have taken place, particularly among personnel, in the months since her departure last fall. Naturally, on her visit to the bureau she had an opportunity to meet the new arrivals among the American staff. (U)

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. During the month, the bureau received and installed new Akai program timers to improve the accuracy of our printing of the early morning AFP English and REUTER transmissions. With the increased capacity for timer-controlled operation of the RTT sets, it also became possible for the bureau to begin printing the AFP French transmission after normal closing hours on Saturday and Sunday, with the printer turning off automatically at the end of the transmission. On 23 May, the bureau began printing AFP French after hours on weekends and processing routine material on a delayed basis the following day. Initial results show that while the volume of additional material is not great, such coverage produces several useful items which otherwise would not have been monitored. (U)
2. On 19 May, the bureau received a letter from [redacted] offering guidance concerning news flashes from West and Central Africa. [redacted] expressed BBC's appreciation for Abidjan's "growing awareness of our needs" and noted that the bureau "has on a number of occasions provided the BBC with the first news of major developments". As for guidance, [redacted] stressed that West Africa is an important target for BBC broadcasts in Hausa, French, and English and that Abidjan can provide news material for these broadcasts, on political and economic developments. Countries of particular interest to BBC include Chad, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger, and Nigeria. In reply, the bureau noted that Nigeria, Ghana and Zaire receive priority treatment in coverage

25X
25X
25X

25X

SECRET

SECRET

in part because of BBC's interest and that the bureau plans to add another monitor to the evening shift in order to get a higher volume of news stories processed before the end of the shift. (U)

3. Upper Voltan President Saye Zerbo used the 1 May holiday to make his government's first comprehensive pronouncement of domestic and foreign policy. The speech, which lasted over two hours, was heard with variable reception, but the bureau was able to process four takes of excerpts covering most major aspects of the new program. A message from the American Embassy in Ouagadougou explained why the bureau had experienced reception problems. A heavy, steady rain fell on the afternoon of 1 May in Ouagadougou, a rare occurrence in a country where it rarely rains. Radio Upper Volta was unprepared for this climatic development and failed to use waterproof couplings for coverage of the outdoor speech, causing parts of the speech to be lost. The embassy added: "Kudos for your excellent work on this speech. You saved us a whale of a time doing our own translation". (U)

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. [] began work as the bureau's new part-time financial/administrative assistant on 4 May, replacing [] who departed in March. (U) 25X
25X
25X
2. Chief monitor [] teletype supervisor [] and electronic technician [] received PSI's during the month. (U) 25X
25X
3. [] returned from end of contract leave on 26 May. He travelled to his home, Lome, Togo, during his leave. (U) 25X

IV. VISITS

Mr. [] conducted a security survey of Abidjan Bureau from 14 to 20 May, and a number of recommendations for upgrading the physical security of the building and procedural security were made. In the area of physical security against break-ins, particular attention was paid to upgrading the security of the bureau's many sliding glass doors, and some simple, inexpensive, suggestions will be implemented. Bureau engineer [] has also begun planning the installation of a sonic intrusion 25X
25X

SECRET

SECRET

alarm system provided by the embassy security office, and
several new locks will be installed soon. (S)



25X

Chief, Abidjan Bureau

ATTACHEMENT: Monthly Production Report

SECRET

ABIDJAN BUREAU

MONTHLY PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MAY 1981

1. COVERAGE (Priority 1 and 2)
 - a. Average daily hours of voice - 12.5
 - b. Average daily hours of press service - 42
 - c. Average daily hours of press - 4
(1/2 hour per paper)
2. Production (English)
 - a. Average daily voice wordage 1,420
 - b. Average daily press service wordage 643
 - c. Average daily newspapers 38
3. Production (French)
 - a. Average daily voice wordage 1,006
 - b. Average daily press service wordage 886
 - c. Average daily newspapers 116
4. Total Average Daily Publishable Wordage (2 plus 3) 4,109
5. Total daily average wordage of multipaper, multilanguage
and/or multisource roundups, program summaries filed as
a continuing requirement; commentary lists; cruising
messages: 223
6. Total Daily Average Filed wordage (4 plus 5) 4,332
7. Total number of ETG Abstracts for Month NA
8. Total number of items for Month 464